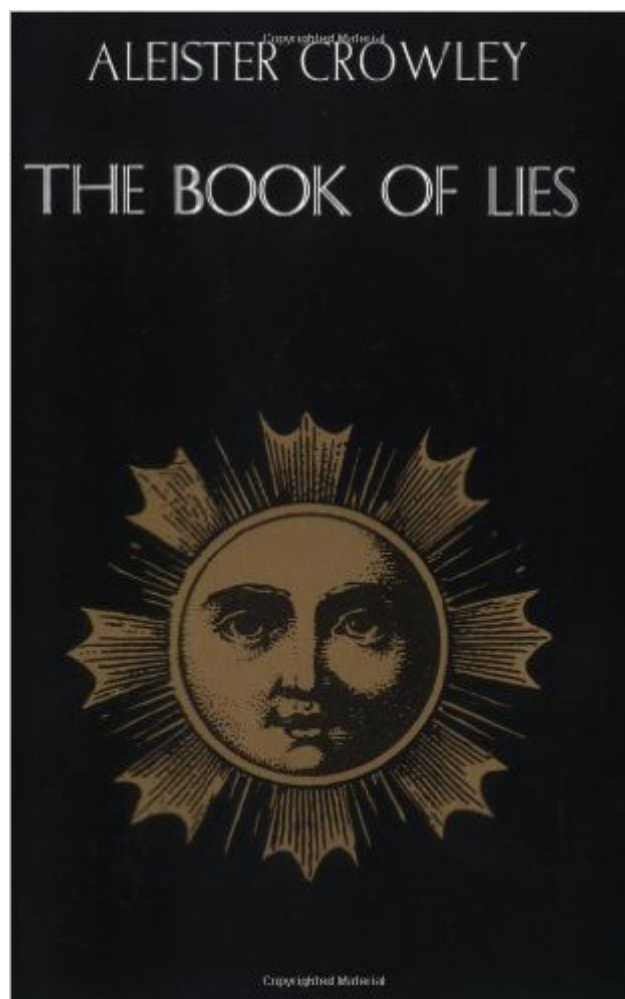


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The Book Of Lies



Synopsis

An admirable collection of Crowley's aphorisms-- Witty, subtle, and instructive paradoxes that challenge and exhilarate.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"The Book of Lies," by Aleister Crowley, is a masterpiece of modern occult literature. The book consists of 93 short chapters (two of which are not numbered), together with Crowley's own commentaries on the chapters. It is marvelous that we thus get to hear Crowley's unique voice speaking in two complementary modes: the revelatory and the analytical. The 93 chapters take a number of forms: poetry, parable, aphorism, vision, joke, and pun. There are numerous intriguing references: to the Tarot, the Qabala, astrology, Egyptian mythology, the "Left Hand Path," Masonry, the Beast of Revelation, sacred geometry, etc. Crowley's writing is often cryptic, often witty, often elegant. The book is also full of memorable quotes. One of my favorites: "I slept with Faith and found a corpse in my arms on awakening; I drank and danced all night with Doubt, and found her a virgin in the morning." Like the most enduring of occult and freethinking writers, Crowley challenges us to refocus our dulled organs of perception, and to rethink our stale mental conventions. "The Book of Lies" belongs on the shelf with my favorite "alternative scriptures": William Blake's "Marriage of Heaven and Hell," the poetry of Stephen Crane, the feminist satires of Luisa Valenzuela, the dark testaments of Anton Szandor LaVey, Ambrose Bierce's "Devil's Dictionary," the savagely satirical writings of Virgilio Pinera, and more. But even in this company, Crowley is in a

class of his own.

If you've studied Crowley for even a few hours, you'll realize that you're not going to open this book and understand what he was getting at just by reading through the text a few times. This is undoubtedly a work that requires careful consideration of so many implicit elements. To list what you need to consider to get at "the deeper meaning" of this book, I'd have to sit here all day. The interesting thing about this book is that you don't necessarily have to analyze the text thoroughly (though it's certainly worth it) to get something out of it. Some of the 'poems' evoke a good laugh, some are beautiful and inspiring and can easily become a personal gem of wisdom for the reader (for me, "The Mountaineer"). When I first started getting into Crowley's writing, a friend recommended starting with the Book of Lies. Other friends naturally scoffed at the recommendation, and insisted I start with The Book of the Law. Now I wish I'd gone with the Book of Lies first, so that I could come back to it after reading other Crowley just to see how far I've come in the Great Work. Even if the Great Work isn't your goal, this book if nothing else is a fantastic conversation piece. I recommend it to not only occultists, but to all book lovers. It's fascinating.

I'm profoundly disappointed. This Kindle edition is just a "converted to eBook" version of the text transcriptions which have been on the internet since the '90s. Who authorized this? The current version at hermetic.com has been improved over the years to the point where this Kindle version is just a sad relic. The Book of Lies deserves a high quality Kindle version. Avoid this one.

For The Mystic, this collection of Poetic Insights is very difficult to put-down. Once you start reading, it is almost impossible to do anything but ingest the complex blocks of text before your eyes. Be sure you have some reading time set-aside, before you tackle this one. I read it in two sittings, but I would-have finished it in one, if I only had the time! Only Mystics will fully appreciate this Work of amazing verbal, Qabalistic Conundrums. Any student of Crowley should have this text on-hand, because he refers the reader to this Poetic treatise, more often than not. Regardless of whether you are reading his "Confessions" (Autohagiography) or his Qabalistic masterpiece, "777," you will casually be referred back to the good ol' "Book of Lies." I never imagined this book of Crowley's whimsical jottings would prove so intriguing or helpful in pursuit of mystical knowledge. Crowley often refers to this book as his most-important work. However, don't expect to "get it" right-away. This is more of a Text-book, than a casual Poetry book. I am surprised he didn't put a Test in the back! However, this book is all-about testing yourself, not being tested by others. Luckily, the

Commentaries were added for us common folk. Enjoy !

THE BOOK OF LIES, WHICH IS ALSO FALSELY CALLED BREAKS, THE WANDERINGS OR FALSIFICATION OF THE THOUGHT OF FRATER PERDURABO WHICH THOUGHT ITSELF IS UNTRUE... Within the 93 "chapters" of this enigmatic little book lie the deepest and most profound "truths". Ranging from a single symbol to nearly two pages in length, the subject of each chapter/poem is determined by the Qabalistic significance of its number. The often outrageous and entertaining commentaries accompanying each chapter explain just enough, but not too much, to assist the reader in their own Qabalistic understanding of these words and numbers. Concerning this wonderful collection of gems, Crowley himself writes: "At first sight the book is a jumble of nonsense intended to insult the reader. It requires infinite study, sympathy, intuition and initiation. Given these, I do not hesitate to claim that in none other of my writings have I given so profound and comprehensive an exposition of my philosophy on every plane..." Need we say more?

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